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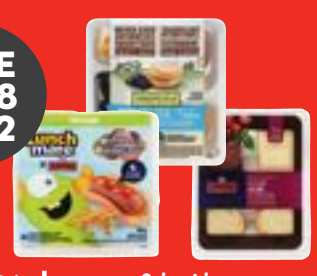
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LEST WE FORGET – A cold snap and deluge of snow couldn't keep the community from Remembering the fallen as the community hosted several Remembrance Day services, including this blustery one held Sunday in Alton. For more on how Caledon Remembered, see Page A10.
PHOTO BY RILEY MURPHY

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Deliberations begin following presentation of Caledon's 2026 Budget

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Last week, the Town of Caledon presented the 2026 Budget, marking the beginning of the formal budget review process.

The presentation covered tax and levy increases, capital and operating budgets, budget initiatives, and more.

In the 2026 budget, there will be a three per cent property tax increase and a one percent annual infrastructure levy increase.

The specific tax levy of one per cent was said to address the $41.9 million infrastructure funding gap.

The 2026 Capital Budget is $88 million, compared to the 2025 budget of $56 million, and will support long-term assets such as roads, buildings, vehicles, as well as upgrades to equipment at recreation centres.

The 2026 Operating Budget will be $167 million, up from $146 million in 2025, and will fund community safety, parks, recreation and culture programming, and investments in road operations and services.

"The 2026 budget is built on sound financial management and maintains a modest tax increase that supports our daily operations while investing in priorities that will serve our residents into the future," shared Robert Cummings, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer.

Cummings noted the primary factor of "the uncertainty around U.S. trade and the impact of tariffs," which he said created a drag on the recovery and growth of the economy this year and into 2026.

Now, he says the 2026 estimates will take into account slower growth.

The 2026 Budget for Community Services Commission featured Fire and Emergency Services, recreation services, service delivery, municipal law enforcement, and community engagement services.

Continued on Page A3

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PDSB and Bolton Pole Vault partner to bring track and field Facility to Humberview

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Peel District School Board (PDSB) and Bolton Pole Vault have entered into a partnership for the construction and operation of a new indoor track and field facility at Humberview Secondary School.

PDSB is providing the land for the facility at Humberview Secondary School, and Bolton Pole Vault is funding both construction and ongoing maintenance, with no fees charged to students during the school's use of the facility.

The facility is planned to include indoor training and competition facilities for track and field events such as pole vault, high jump, long jump, triple jump, shot put, and a 60-metre sprint straightaway.

Continued on Page A8



Canadian Olympic athlete Alysha Newman is pictured with Education Trustee Stan Cameron.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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Friends of Caledon Public Library to hold final Book Sale of the year

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Friends of Caledon Public Library's (FOCPL) upcoming book sale, running from November 14 to 16, will mark the end of this season of sales until next year.

FOCPL is a non-profit, volunteer organization that supports and enhances library services in the community.

Their efforts include book sales, supporting writing contests, and helping CPL purchase a variety of materials for the library and their collections.

Their last book sale of the year will feature preloved books starting at 20 cents each.

All proceeds from the sale will go directly towards the Caledon Public Library.

Everyone is also invited to become a Friend for $10 to access the VIP Sale on Friday night.

To sign up, visit cpl.social/friend.

Members can also fill a bag with books for only ten dollars.

The sale will be held at Bolton United Church, 8 Nancy Street, Bolton.

Friday, November 14, will be VIP Night, running from 6:30 to 8:30 pm; Saturday will run from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday's sale will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Over the weekend, donations of gently used books will be accepted during sale hours.

The FOCPL are still looking for volunteers to help with the sale on Sunday, November 16.

If you are interested in volunteering, sign up here: caledon.library.on.ca/focpl-book-sale/.

Councillors reflect on proposed 2026 Budget

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Caledon presented the preliminary 2026 Budget on November 5marking the beginning of the formal budget review process.

Council will have the opportunity to debate and propose amendments to the Budget at the upcoming General Committee meeting on November 18. Approval of Budget amendments is slated for the Council meeting on November 25.

Council now has the opportunity to discuss and deliberate.

"As a Councillor deeply committed to responsible governance and the well-being of our community, I recognize the importance of investing in critical infrastructure and cultural amenities that will serve Caledon's growing population," says Regional Councillor Christina Early. "That said, the proposed $24 million courthouse expansion and the sizeable investment in a new theatre are significant expenditures that demand careful scrutiny."

She notes that on September 9 Council supported a motion calling for a thorough report and detailed business case analysis before "committing to projects of this scale."

Early says it is essential that they fully understand the costs, benefits, and long-term impacts to "ensure taxpayer dollars are prudently spent."

"While there are many important elements in the 2026 Budget, I share the community's expectation that every major investment be transparent, justified, and aligned with our priorities," she adds, noting she has begun a detailed analysis of the Budget and will be "rigorously reviewing the proposals, asking challenging questions, and listening carefully to residents' voices."

"Our community deserves leadership that balances vision with fiscal discipline and openness. As we approach the amendment and adoption phases this month, I intend to advocate for thorough analysis and prudent decision-making so that Caledon's growth is supported by sustainable investments that truly reflect the needs and values of its people," says Early.

Regional Councillor Mario Russo says that while initially combing through the Budget, he says that "the 'Mayor's Budget' as presented is in fact the 'Town of Caledon's Staff Budget".

Russo says this is because the Budget includes hundreds of requests from different departments; staff members make requests to their Commissioner, who then brings those requests to Council as part of the overall Budget.

He notes the complex process, and says that many asks are deferred or amended to fit into the current Budget, "that if supported as is will impose a 3% increase plus 1% to our State of Good Repair levy," adds Russo.

"This is where we as Council are now challenged, with what appears before us. I feel this Budget is very responsible and well thought out; however, as presented, this still negates some additional asks we heard from those excellent delegations last week and some other items we may feel important in our wards," he says.

This, he adds, is what makes it challenging.

Russo says the balance of wants and needs in the growing community, with the recognition that residents face financial pressures, makes any increase difficult.

"Value for money is what we strive to achieve through this Budget," he says, adding that he is sure there will be future discussion on items that will be debated, deferred, or amended further, as well as potentially added items.

Russo says, for him personally, the decision boils down to whether the item is needed now, and whether his "family's dollars that we contribute to this tax base" would be best spent supporting said initiatives.

He says tough but necessary decisions are ahead, and he believes Staff did an "excellent job" in sorting the asks into the most necessary ones that "advance" the Town into 2026 and beyond.

"I'm hoping and going through each item before us to try and find a few efficiencies that can achieve that balance mentioned and still save our taxpayer a few more dollars," he adds.

Councillor Cosimo Napoli stated, "Given the current economic climate and the challenges many residents are facing, I believe our staff has worked diligently to present a responsible and balanced budget."

Napoli says that it is a plan that recognizes both the financial pressures on households and the need to continue investing in essential community services.

He shares he believes it's important to keep the tax levy increase as low as possible, as families continue to manage the effects of inflation.

"There are a few significant projects included that are vital to Caledon's growth and safety, notably the courthouse and the new firehall. While these are substantial investments, they are necessary to support our community's needs now and into the future," he says.

Napoli states that a key focus of the Budget is maintaining current infrastructure and that proactive maintenance is crucial.

"Delaying this work would only increase costs over time. As we continue through the budget review process, Council will look carefully at where adjustments can be made to ensure we remain fiscally responsible while meeting community priorities," he says.

Councillor Dave Sheen shared that, to his knowledge, "Council and the community have not been consulted" on the $24 million project to build a new Provincial Courthouse and OPP Expansion to replace the existing court space currently located at Town Hall.

"Nor do we know what happens to the Town Hall space being vacated, likely triggering another capital project," says Sheen.

"We don't know what judicial resources will be allocated to Caledon by the Province," he adds.

"The Budget is committing $1.5 million this year toward a Performing Arts Centre and even with no feasibility assessment in place, another $18.25 million is already set aside for 2027. These are exactly the questions a staff report and needs analysis would answer before committing these funds," says Sheen.

He also adds that there is a disconnect.

The Caledon Public Library, he notes, faces service cuts in the Budget.

"Meanwhile, residents continually raise concerns about traffic safety and illegal truck yards, yet little to no funding is allocated to address these issues. Nearly $40 million in undocumented capital projects are in the Budget while services and community priorities go underfunded. To me, that's not aligned with our principle of serving the greatest number of people."

Councillor Doug Maskell shared that in the Budget, "there was a determined effort to mitigate the impact on the taxpayer during these uncertain times."

He shares it is his hope that through the amendment process on November 18, the tax increase can be reduced to 2% with a 1% infrastructure levy.

He notes that the "dramatic increase" in the Capital budget was driven by two significant projects: the new Provincial Offences Court at $14,000,000 and the Stormwater Improvements at $19,000,000.

"Through the prudent use of reserve funds and provincial grants almost 85% of these budgeted costs have been covered without a significant impact on the tax levy," says Maskell. "I look forward to working with my colleagues to deliver an amended budget that meets the needs of our growing and diverse community, while respecting the taxpayer."

Councillor Tony Rosa says, "The CFO and finance department presented a fiscally responsible budget," and he believes there is room for amendments that could reduce the tax increase proposed for 2026.

"I recognize that Staff took the responses and feedback they received from residents seriously and included their priorities in the proposed Budget. Looking forward to further budget deliberations and approving a fair budget for the community," he says.



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Mayor's Fall 2025 Business Breakfast set for Monday at Mount Alverno

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Mayor Annette Groves, alongside the Caledon Economic Development and the Caledon Chamber of Commerce, has invited local business leaders to the Mayor's Fall Business Breakfast that will be held on November 17 at Mount Alverno Luxury Resorts.

This breakfast is shared to bring together business leaders, government partners, and community stakeholders to discuss Caledon's growth, investment opportunities, and the future of local infrastructure.

This year's theme is focused on connectivity, mobility, and Caledon's future in regional transit.

"The annual Business Breakfast is a tradition that offers businesses in Caledon a platform to collaborate, exchange ideas, and feel inspired," says Groves.

She says this year's transit theme "underscores our commitment to growth and building a more connected and accessible community."

"As our Town continues to grow and develop rapidly, events like this provide an essential opportunity to share insights, strengthen partnerships, and engage in meaningful discussions about our economic and infrastructure priorities. It's about shaping a more vibrant and sustainable future for all of us," says Groves.

The keynote speaker will be Steve Anderson, who will lead an engaging discussion on regional transit and how improved connectivity supports business success.

Anderson is a Litigation Lawyer with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), where he has spent over 20 years ensuring accountability and protecting public interests.

As former Deputy Mayor of Shelburne and Dufferin County Councillor, he helped launch Shelburne's first local bus service, the Grey Transit Route (GTR), and has been an advocate for regional transit integration.

He also serves as a Director of the TTC Pension Plan and Defence Construction Canada, and as the Deputy Administrator of the Fund for Railway Accidents, advancing public infrastructure, safety, and community connectivity.



MAYOR ANNETTE GROVES
TOWN OF CALEDON PHOTO

Caledon Presents 2026 Budget

Continued from FRONT

Judith D'Souza Soares, Commissioner of Community Services, shared that in 2025, the Municipal Law Enforcement team saw an overall 13 per cent increase in complaints compared to 2024, with Parking and Property Maintenance accounting for 63 per cent of all cases.

To meet demands, enforcement coverage was expanded to include evenings, weekends, and holidays.

With the Illegal Land Use Task Force appointed in 2024, the assignment of two dedicated enforcement officers resulted in 42 per cent of closed files through compliance and 28 per cent proceeding to prosecution.

The Municipal Law Enforcement team will commit to advancing compliance in 2026 by focusing on illegal truck depots and expanding the Illegal Land Use Task Force to include illegal event centers, shared Soares.

Within the new department of Community Engagement Services, the Outdoor Maintenance Assistance Program moved to an annual offering in 2025, and funding was recently increased by $50,000 to account for the growing number of seniors relying on it.

Dave Pelayo, Fire Chief of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services (CFES), presented on Fire and Emergency Services.

He shared that since the pandemic, they have seen a double-digit increase in call volumes every year, and for the first time in their history, they will surpass 4,100 incidents in 2025.

This year, Pelayo explained, they are updating their Fire Master Plan and constructing and completing the new Station 310, their first net-zero fire station.

Station 310 will also take into account all the steps put on the Provincial Government's cancer prevention checklist.

Some of CFES's capital projects will include replacing Emergency Protocol Radios, replacing bumper gear, as well as large and aging fire equipment, such as thermal imaging cameras, gas detectors, and power tools.

This budget will also include 30 sets of PPE for volunteer firefighters, ensuring they are adequately equipped and supported.

The budget for Engineering, Public Works, and Transportation included infrastructure renewal of roads, culverts, and bridges; fleet modernization and sustainability; energy efficiency and green initiatives; subwatershed and transportation studies; and corporate and community facility upgrades.

When it comes to culverts, Commissioner Domenica D'Amico of Engineering, Public Works and Transportation noted that they are "ramping up" their ability to investigate culverts to address problems before they turn into emergency road closures or emergency responses.

"Our focus on the transportation division continues to be traffic safety and traffic calming, and a significant number of environmental assessments to inform our new program and ensure that our roads are built to be able to accommodate that future growth," shared D'Amico

Recently, approved by Council, they are moving into concept design for the new theatre.

It was also shared that the design for the Caledon Courthouse is underway, with construction slated for 2026.

The Town is proposing the design and construction of a new Provincial Courthouse and OPP Expansion to replace the existing court space currently located at Town Hall.

The new courthouse will be constructed on the site north of the existing Police Station on Innis Lake Road.

The total for this would be $24,000,000 for 2026 and $9,512,570 for 2027, resulting in $33,512,570.

It was also shared that criminal offences will not be heard at the Caledon courthouse, and that practice will continue at the Orangeville Courthouse.

D'Amico noted that there is expansion capability if they decide to pursue that option.

The courthouse expansion has appeared previously in the 2025 budget.

This year, the budget also focused on responses seen from the community, where Caledon residents identified Roads Operations, Municipal Law Enforcement, Parks, Recreation and Community Services, and Fire and Emergency Services as top priorities for the 2026 Budget.

The budget presentation also served as a space for local community groups and organizations to present their initiatives and budgets.

The Caledon Public Library (CPL) presented the growing demand for library services, noting that program participation is up 21 per cent.

CPL's core capital needs revolve around Library Collections and Materials, Library IT Equipment, and Library Cybersecurity Infrastructure Enhancements.

They also noted various growth and self-improvement needs, noting service kiosks, furniture and fixtures, branch refurbishments, and more.

Colleen Lipp, CEO and Chief Librarian of Caledon Public Library, said vendors have informed them that the cost of books will increase as a result of tariffs.

CPL was previously notified that tax-funded capital would be capped at $500,000, that there were no funds available to support the library's changes in service levels, and that there were no development charges to support eligible capital projects.

This resulted in the resubmission of CPL's 2026 budget.

"In order to stretch the available $500,000 to support both collections and IT, difficult decisions will be required. This will effectively reduce funding collections to levels not seen since 2016," says Lipp.

Lipp noted this would result in the cancellation of digital collections, delays in replacing workstations, delays in the growing collection of laptops available to the public, and more.

"We see this budget process as a collaboration that provides a really valuable opportunity for the library to advise Council of the identified need and demonstrate how the library can best contribute to Caledon's priorities, most notably community vitality and livability," said Lipp.

The Caledon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) also presented its service level agreement for 2026 to 2028, noting that it has seen a large increase in membership over the years.

Going into 2026, they will provide business support and programs and create more networking opportunities for businesses.

Their request for 2026 to 2028 would increase their funding from $10,000 to $15,000 for the next three years and provide a 100 per cent rebate on rental costs.

CCC shared that this would allow them to continue to build their memberships and opportunities.

Headwaters Arts presented Growing the Arts in Caledon, and after speaking on the importance of arts to the community, they suggested multiple ways to grow Arts and Culture in Caledon.

The first is to establish a Caledon Arts Council to advocate for the arts and their benefits to the community; and second, that the Town to do a feasibility study for a dedicated grant program for arts organizations.

Their mission would be to foster the arts, with specific goals and activities jointly developed by the Town and the arts organization.

Lastly, Caledon Area Families for Inclusion (CAFFI) Community Support Network presented the current need for day and after-school programs for individuals aged 18 and older with multiple exceptionalities.

"These individuals have experienced limited access to community activities, and are currently not designed to support their needs," said Mike Brunetto with CAFFI.

The Community Support Network has recently launched a PA Day program, a daytime recreational and life skills program designed for young adults 18 plus with special needs, that prioritizes those with complex or exceptional support requirements.

They are seeking continued support from the Town not only for their PA program but also for expansion into March Break, Summer Camps, and Holiday Camps, ultimately, leading to their proposed Full Day Adult Program for Exceptional Needs.

This would be an all-day, life-skills-integrated program designed for 21-plus, that continues to prioritize those with complex or exceptional support requirements.

Brunetto noted that in the involved families, he is seeing anxiety over wait lists for daytime and post-secondary services for young adults over the age of 18, as well as growing concerns regarding the quality of life after high school.

"All the services are currently tipped to one side, and what we are looking to do is try to get the balance," he adds.

Following the presentation, Council and Staff will now have the opportunity to discuss priorities, investments and financial planning for the year ahead.

At the upcoming November 18 General Committee meeting, Council will have an opportunity to debate and propose amendments to the budget, as well as fees and charges.

Budget amendments approval will take place at the November 25th Council Meeting.





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Service, bravery, and leadership celebrated at Caledon Fire and Emergency Services Recognition Ceremony

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Fire and Emergency Services recognized its members' achievements at its annual service recognition ceremony on November 8.

The event celebrated firefighters who have reached milestones in service time, recent retirees, and those who have gone above and beyond in service to their community, including three members who received the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

The King Charles III Coronation Medal is awarded to those who have made a significant contribution to Canada or to a particular province, territory, region or community of Canada, or have made an outstanding achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada.

These medals went to Fire Chief Dave Pelayo, Deputy Chief Jeff Fairbarn, and Firefighter Brandon DiMonte for their commitment and courage.

"The presentation of these medals is a powerful reflection of the effectiveness and professionalism of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services," said Mayor Annette Groves.

She noted their ongoing commitment to safety, community, and innovation directly supports the Town's strategic priorities of building safe, caring, and connected communities.

"We are incredibly proud of Chief Pelayo, Deputy Chief Fairbarn, and Firefighter DiMonte for the leadership and compassion they bring to their roles and the example they set for all of us," she said.

Chief Pelayo received the medal for his dedicated work supporting firefighter mental health and wellness, and Deputy Chief Fairbarn and Firefighter DiMonte were honoured for their heroic actions while off duty, when their "quick thinking and bravery" helped save a life during a motor vehicle collision in 2024, said the Town.

Several other awards were presented that night, recognizing excellence and leadership across Caledon Fire and Emergency Services.

The Fire Chief's Award went to Firefighter Matthew Morton for his creativity and leadership in designing Caledon Fire's 100th Anniversary Challenge Coin, which was shared to be a symbol of pride and unity within the department.

This was the inaugural year of the Public Educator of the Year Award, which was presented to Firefighter Christine Martel and Firefighter Linda McGowan for their passion and innovation in fire and life safety education.



King Charles III Coronation Medal recipients - (Left to Right) Deputy Chief Jeff Fairbarn, Firefighter Brandon DiMonte, and Fire Chief Dave Pelayo. **TOWN OF CALEDON PHOTO**

Firefighters from Stations 303 and 305 were honoured with the Valour in Rescue Award for their bravery and teamwork in responding to a fiery motor vehicle rollover, where it was stated that their quick actions and courage directly saved lives.

The Firefighter of the Year Awards are peer-nominated and recognize members who exemplify leadership, teamwork, and service excellence.

This year's recipients were Jordan Thompson, Austin Kent, Karl Gadde, Doug Dixon, Kaaren Densham, Steve Nelson, Justus Vilella, Victor Wood and Matthew Aquino.

Judith D'Souza Soares, Commissioner of Community Services, shared that this event is "always a highlight of the year and a reminder of the dedicated people who make up Caledon Fire and Emergency Services."

"Their professionalism and teamwork are commendable as is their collective commitment to keep Caledon a safe and resilient community," she said.

Twenty-nine firefighters were recognized for their years of service at this year's ceremony.

Celebrating 30 years were William G. Brimblecombe and David Currie.

Dan R. Van Amelsvoort and Anthony Staniscia were recognized for 25 years of service.

Celebrating 20 years of service were James Arnold, Ronald Hughes, Breck Nordheimer, Daryl Roy, Christopher Teeter and Kevin Wilson.

Caledon Fire retirees over the past year were also honoured, including 11 with over 20 years of service.

Paul Bebbington served 46 years, Mike Denreyer served 44 years, Roy Hostrawser served 41 years, Bill Davis served 34 years, David Currie served 30 years, Brian Corbett, Wayne Everitt and Dennis Anselmi all served 29 years, Colin Berry served 27 years, Randall Macey served 26 years, and Ronald Hughes served 20 years.

SUSPICIOUS FIRE INVESTIGATION

Officers from the Caledon Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are investigating a suspicious fire at a private business.

"On November 7, 2025, at approximately 3:45 a.m., Caledon OPP responded to a report of a vehicle fire at private business in the area of Healey Road and Airport Road, in the Town of Caledon," say Police. "Police responded alongside members of Caledon Fire and Emergency Services. The fire was extinguished and no injuries were reported.

"Investigators discovered numerous transport trucks and trailers had been damaged as a result of the fire. At this time, the fire has been deemed suspicious and is being investigated as an incident of arson."

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone who may have information regarding this incident is asked to contact Caledon OPP at 905-584-2241 or 1-888-310-1122. You can also provide information anonymously by contacting Peel Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or online at www.peelcrimestoppers.ca. When you contact Crime Stoppers you stay anonymous, and you never have to testify.



The Citizen CROSSWORD

Solution in the classifieds.

CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular broadcast network
4. Train line
10. Go quickly
11. Straightforward
12. Canadian province
14. Swiss river
15. It can be straight or curved
16. Edit
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Gotten up
23. Sea vessel
24. Agents of one's demise
26. Not out
27. Something to scratch
28. A round water pot
30. Slang for cylindrical green fruit
31. Promotions
34. Masses of matter
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Nightstand item
39. The content of cognition
40. Arab ruler
41. Northern U.S. state
42. Chewed in small bites
48. Hawaiian island
50. More thin
51. Of one
52. Rigid bracelet or anklet
53. Barbary sheep
54. Not even
55. Atomic #106
56. Haggle
58. Boxing's GOAT
59. Division of a group into opposing factions
60. Vietnamese offensive

CLUES DOWN

1. Horse-drawn carriage
2. Prejudices
3. Peacefully
4. University athletic official
5. Soldiers
6. Large mollusk
7. Take out again
8. Sour or bitter in taste
9. Songwriter Tunstall
12. Husk of wheat
13. Flexible covering in some birds
17. Energy
19. Night monkey genus
20. Small nails
21. Colorless volatile liquid
25. In a way, changes integrity
29. Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal
31. Remember it
32. "Good Will Hunting" lead man
33. Pleasant facial expression
35. Sea vessel
38. Lacking poetic beauty
41. Tall, swift and slender dog
43. Sports personality Michelle
44. Robber
45. Liquefied natural gas
46. Snakelike fish
47. Sediment at bottom of a liquid
49. Crimean seaport
56. Bad grades
57. Popular S. Korean rapper

No one has more self-confidence than the person who does a crossword puzzle with a pen.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Gala
WHERE NEIGHBOURS GATHER

Caledon Community Services' Home for the Holidays Gala set for November 28

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Caledon Community Services' Home for the Holidays gala is set to return November 28 with the theme, 'Where Neighbours Gather."

The theme is both reflective of the event and an ode to the first several years of the gala, when it was hosted in the private homes of volunteers.

For nearly three decades, CCS's annual gala has helped thousands of Caledon neighbours in need put food on the table, keep their homes warm and create a path to health and independence.

Proceeds from the gala go toward food for those in need, rides to medical appointments, 24/7 care for seniors to remain in their homes, relief for caregivers, training youth for employment, and more.

CCS's gala first began in 1998 in volunteers' homes across Caledon, and has since then served as a place for hundreds to gather, share stories, and connect.

Donna Cragg, Director of Communications and Marketing at CCS, notes that the gala has always been volunteer-driven.

"It was volunteer envisioned and volunteer run, and the agency couldn't have done anything without volunteers. We're so grateful for them even today for the impact that they've had over the years," says Cragg.

She noted that years after the gala was first held, it began to grow smaller and smaller, until it was re-envisioned in 2016 when those on the Board noticed the various galas other groups were hosting.

"Caledon was ready for something more substantial," says Cragg.

So, in 2016, it was reborn, becoming the gala known and loved by many today.

Since inception, they have raised over $3 million, and Cragg notes the funds raised by the community over time: "It's phenomenal," she says.

"It highlights the generosity of the community and the heart of the community," says Cragg.

She notes that although CCS holds so many events and initiatives throughout the year, many point to the gala as their favourite event of the year "because of the warmth and wonder and how it brings community together," says Cragg.

CCS is extremely grateful not only for the gala's rich history but also for all the people along the way who have made it possible.

"Nothing happens without the people with the energy and the vision to drive something spectacular," says Cragg, adding that she's sure those who first began the gala never envisioned where it is today.

CCS, she says, truly embodies the quote from Margaret Mead, "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world, indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Cragg says that seeing the gala grow to where it is today and having people share how much it means to them is extremely emotional.

"This is one of the reasons why we love to call Caledon home. There's a uniqueness to the depth of the caring and the depth of the history and the consistency. It's something very special that I know myself as a resident. I know that CCS celebrates it and it's at the very core of what we do, and certainly what we want to be part of maintaining as our community grows."

This year, attendees can expect live dance demonstrations by nationally recognized Latin dance finalists Sebastian Lennox and Cassidy Grossi, and music by local father-and-son duo Chris and Owen Hillert.

There will also be a Silent Auction featuring items for every interest, and the core of the evening focuses on – Gifts from the Heart – this year will be doubled up to $50,000 through the generosity of Brampton Brick's matching gift.

Cragg notes attendees will celebrate with a deluxe antipasto bar, a signature welcome drink, a three-course meal, and so much more.

"The Home for the Holidays Gala 2025 promises inspiring stories, stunning décor, and the kind of connection and impact that only happens where neighbours gather," says Cragg.

The gala will be held on November 28th at the Royal Ambassador Event Centre.

COMMUNITY events

This column is provided as a free public service to non-profit organizations to announce up-coming events. Please contact the Caledon Citizen by calling ***(905) 857-6626*** *or emailing* ***admin@caledoncitizen.com*** *if you wish to have an announcement published.*

Kingcrafts Studio Sale
Mark your calendar for our upcoming sale, invite your friends and come shop our seasonal collection of unique, hand-crafted pieces made by your local community of artisans and crafters!
November 14, 15, 16 & 21, 22, 23, 2025
10:00am - 4:00pm
Kingcrafts Studio
12936 Keele Street
King City, ON L7B 1H8
905-833-1897
https://www.kingcrafts.ca/

Albion Bolton Historical Society - Monday, **November 17**, for a 7:30 PM start, at the Albion Bolton Community Centre, 150 Queen Street, South, Bolton, Meeting Room C, 2nd Floor, (elevator available). Nathan Hiller is presenting '**The Home Front 1914-1918**.' Nathan will share what was happening locally and the contributions the community made during the First World War. Guests $5.00. Questions: nhillerphoto@bell.net or 905-584-2801 visit us at boltonhistory.com

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Church of the Holy Family
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Saturday, November 15th, 2025
9am-2pm
$1.00 Admission with Door Prizes!
Crafts, Baking, Jewellery, Bottle Table, Gift Ideas, International Foods and More!
Join us for lunch in our café.
Please bring bags to take home the awesome purchases you will make.
10446 Kennedy Rd., N., Brampton
(Between Bovaird Dr. & Sandalwood Parkway E.)

Christ Church Anglican, Bolton
Annual Christmas bazaar
Sat. Nov. 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Craft and vendor tables, Baking, Bottle Table, Gift Basket Raffle,
Knitting and Crocheting, Nearly New Room
Cafe for coffee or light lunch
No charge for admission
Bring your own bags
22 Nancy Street, Bolton

Bolton Kin Toonie Treasure Sale Saturday November 22nd from 10 am till 1 pm at the President Building Albion Bolton Fairgrounds. Racks and racks of new/gently used apparel for men, women and children all for a toonie! All proceeds help support community needs.

CLOSINGS IN 2027



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BROCK WEIR
BROCK'S BANTER

Remembering in Discomfort

Remembrance Day services are always, in my view, a spectacular sight.

I've been a life-long sucker for pomp and circumstance, so the bands and pipers (bag and otherwise) that participate each year, not to mention the associated parades, and uniforms that have been cleaned-up and buttons polished to levels only seen at this time of year, is a perfect storm.

But it's not just pomp and circumstance solely for the sake of pomp and circumstance; it's potent, poignant, and never fails to lose its power.

This sight, unchanged in so many ways since the end of the First World War, had extra power this year due to circumstances well beyond our control.

The sheer number of people who gave their all to attend ceremonies on Tuesday, and those held over the weekend, despite a deep freeze and snow blowing in all directions, was a testament to how proud we are of the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for King, Queen and Country. It was also reflective of the pride we have in the men and women who served, experienced the horrors taken in by the fallen but, mercifully, came home to share their stories.

As impressive as the numbers were given the unseasonable weather of the past few days, however, I often wonder just how many more people might turn out if not for any number of circumstances.

Sure, there are those who are unable to get out and mark the occasion privately, or, if they're living on a congregate setting, in services ably spearheaded by residential staff to allow their residents to Remember – and a special shout out goes to teachers and education support staff who go above and beyond to help students Remember in-class as well.

But there are other circumstances, too.

Some might say such services glorify war and conflict; well, talk to anyone who has served and you'll likely say otherwise.

Some might argue that there aren't enough hours to take out of the workday to make the effort; first of all, the men and women who served might have learned a word we can't print in this newspaper to refute that, but, regardless, there are almost always ways to remember on the weekends.

Yet, for others, it's a matter of discomfort.

I know there are members of our communities who don't turn out for very personal reasons. Perhaps they had a beloved parent or grandparent, aunt or uncle, who served and the aforementioned power and potency of such ceremonies are simply too much for them.

Others still might find the music that so often accompanies such services too evocative of events in their past, at funerals, for instance, and would prefer to ride out these emotions in privacy.

Fair enough.

While I respect each person's individual reasons for not coming out for such occasions, to me it invariably seems like such a missed opportunity.

I'm also reminded of an experience I had many years ago when, as a loved one's life ebbed towards its close, some members of their family were reluctant to come and say their final farewells.

Saying goodbye is always difficult, and that goes without saying, but their reason for staying away often surprised me: they preferred to remember the loved one as they were in their prime, not as they were as their time came to an end. That certainly didn't help anybody and, when you can provide comfort at no cost to someone you love when they need it the most is, in my opinion, peak selfishness.

And, again, a missed opportunity.

There is some value in discomfort.

At last week's recent induction ceremony for the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame's Class of 2025, some of the honourees touched upon the lessons they learned in taking a loss on the field, on the rink, or whatever their arena, if you'll pardon the pun, happened to be.

Losing is never a comfortable experience, but it's one that you learn from and, hopefully, propels you forward.

Political circumstances here at home, south of the border, and well-beyond have come together to inspire people who have never been engaged in politics before to step out of their comfort zones, put their opinions forward and, if not in writing, speaking before the public – a hurdle that's difficult to clear in the best of circumstances.

Just last week, comedian Nikki Glaser hosted Saturday Night Live and certainly sparked a conversation. Her monologue, which touched upon several controversial topics, made many people uncomfortable – and brought about the inevitable online backlash, as most things do these days – but, if not laughing, it certainly got people talking.

Maybe, however, there a shift in the offing.

An October 13 article in the UK newspaper, The Independent, delved into the topic of whether or not trigger warnings, such as those at the start of a movie or news article that contain scenes which could adversely impact its consumers, are effective.

In her article, Rebecca Whittaker, cited a study which found "flagging potentially distressing content may encourage people" to read or watch further.

"Almost 90 per vent of young people who saw a trigger warning still chose to view the content out of curiosity, whatever the source of the warnings, and irrespective of whether they suffered trauma. One person even told researchers: 'Sometimes my brain wants to be triggered, so it grabs my attention more.'"

More than 250 people between the ages of 17 and 25 participated in the study. It also found that whether or not the participant had trauma history or PTSD had little bearing in whether or not they were going to heed the warming.

"Although trigger warnings are there to signal care and consideration, the evidence suggests they do little to prevent exposure to distressing material. Instead, they may simply pique curiosity, leading users to engage with content they might otherwise have ignored."

This is not to suggest in any way that people go and run roughshod over trigger warnings that might very well be relevant to their own experiences and their mental health, but simply to illustrate that comfort zones are highly individual and we are in control of whether or not we stay in them.

And how we Remember.

If you stay away from your local Cenotaph at this time of year solely because it might be an uncomfortable experience, perhaps 2026 is the year you step out of that comfort zone and take part in a remarkable example of community coming together for a common cause – something that is becoming increasingly rare in this day and age.

The men and women we gather to remember certainly stepped out of theirs to serve, and so-called creature comforts were barely a thought – aside, perhaps, from writing home about provisions and rations. Who knows, coming out next November might provide a valuable moment of catharsis.

For those who gathered on Tuesday and in the days that preceded it, it certainly wasn't a comfortable experience, either. But it completed the Act of Remembrance, and, I think we were all the richer for it.



Our bodies are much more than vessels

by Mark Pavilons



"The human body is strange and flawed and unpredictable. The human body has many secrets, and it does not divulge them to anyone, except those who have learned to wait." – Paul Auster

Our bodies are truly magnificent pieces of machinery. They're beyond intricate and despite the fact every one is unique and priceless, we all get one.

It's like our essence gets a new outfit – an overcoat or sorts – at the time of our birth. It's like winning the evolutionary lottery. Alas, with any windfall can come bankruptcy, physically or emotionally.

While some of us are capable of throwing 100-mile-per-hour fastballs, or skating down the ice on a break-away, we're imperfect and fragile.

Yes, girls are made from sugar, spice and so many nice things. Boys, on the other hand, are made from snails and the odd bits of a puppy's tail.

But science knows we're made of a tiny bit more.

Humans are composed of 84 minerals, 23 elements and 8 gallons of water, distributed among 38 billion cells. Roughly 99% of the mass of the human body is made up of six elements: oxygen, carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, calcium, and phosphorus. Less than 1% is composed of another five elements: potassium, sulfur, sodium, chlorine, & magnesium. All 11 are necessary for life.

Our bodies have seven septillion atoms (7 followed by 26 zeroes). Add another 30 trillion human cells and another 38 trillion bacterial cells. Our temples host roughly 200 different cell types, the majority found in our blood.

We are not unlike our brethren in the universe, literally. Stars, like our sun, are necessary for life to flourish. Our sun, through nuclear fusion in its core, converts hydrogen into helium. Massive amounts of energy are released during this process, providing the building blocks for elements such as oxygen, and nitrogen. What are humans made of? Well, stardust of course!

We have been built out of nothing by "spare parts" of the earth that we have consumed, according to a set of instructions hidden in a double helix, small enough to be carried by a single sperm.

We are made of recycled butterflies, plants, rocks, streams, firewood, wolf skins and shark teeth, decomposed into their smallest parts and reconstructed into the most complex living being on our planet.

"We're not living on earth, we are earth!"

All of this comes together in a rather neat package, controlled by something much more complex. The human brain, with its staggering 100 trillion neural connections, generates self-awareness. We're not quite sure how electrical signals become thoughts and emotions, but there you have it.

Unlike any other known biological system, the human brain can contemplate its own existence, creating a recursive loop of awareness that challenges our understanding of perception and reality.

We also need to remember that we are spiritual beings just spending some time in a body.

Approximately half of the world's population adheres to religious or spiritual beliefs. The cornerstone of spiritual beliefs is the existence of the spirit or soul. Even those who do not follow a religion believe that our essence is spirit.

Plato believed in the concept of dualism – that the body and soul are separate entities. He argued that the soul is immortal and unchanging, while the body is a temporary residence.

Descartes argued that our ability to think and reason is enough to prove the existence of a soul.

Thomas Aquinas, a medieval theologian, also argued that the soul is the vital principle that animates the body and gives it life.

Dr. Stuart Hameroff, an anesthesiologist and professor at the University of Arizona, conducted a recent study into the brain activity of clinically dead patients. He found that an electroencephalogram (EEG) seemed to capture a strange burst of energy that occurred shortly after death.

This gamma synchrony, he said, is typically linked to our conscious thought, awareness and perception.

"So that could be the near-death experience, or it could be the soul leaving the body, perhaps."

He also stressed that consciousness happens at a quantum level. A quantum object exists in multiple states at once and quantum physics seems to be all about probabilities.

I'd choose another word to describe our souls, but hey, if science even admits it's possible, I'm good with that.

Does it open a curtain, and reveal the literal "stairway to heaven?"

Atman, one of the most basic concepts in Hinduism, is the universal self. After death it either transmigrates to a new life or attains release (moksha) from the bonds of existence.

Interestingly, the 12 unique characteristics of Atman are: eternal, undecaying, one without a second, pure and untouched by matter, distinct from the body, the support of pure consciousness, without volition, changeless, self-aware, the cause of all, unattached, and infinite.

Boy, all of those terms can be used to describe our soul, the spark inside each and every one of us.

If we can beat the odds of coming into existence (1 in 400 quadrillion), maybe there's a bit more than snips and snails and puppy dog tails in my DNA.

My friends, we are miracles, coming into being from microscopic parts of our parents, growing into marvellous, albeit somewhat selfish creatures. We can not only run and jump, but reach for the stars and create energy from atoms.

Recycled though we may be, perhaps we carry with us the most important things of all – the cells of all that has been. We're like a vessel that contains all of creation.

While I would have come up with something a bit more reliable to carry such priceless material, I suppose we humans will do for now.

And maybe, just maybe, in those seconds when we transcend into a quantum state, we take all of humankind with us, to ports unknown.

Happy trails, everyone!



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SHERALYN ROMAN
TALK CALEDON



WTF

It's not what you think!

In my world, "WTF" refers to "What the Ford," an expression you might hear a lot around the Province of Ontario right now, and not just from our southern neighbour who was none too pleased with a recent advertising campaign. It occurred to me in the middle of the night not long ago (that time being when many of us have either our best, or worst, ideas) that the acronym WTF is perfect for describing how the actions of Premier Ford have left many of us, to misquote yet another acronym, SMH – smacking our heads in surprise.

Here are just a few of our favourite WTF moments, beginning with the entirely unnecessary "resurfacing" of Highway 10, something supposedly required to enable construction of a bridge related to the still disputed (and also possibly entirely unnecessary) Highway 413.

I'm not sure how repaving a road, without changing a single lane alignment, intersection or anything at all really, helps to build a bridge? Regular travellers of this north/south road will acknowledge there are significant safety concerns including: speeding, various problematic and dangerous intersections, significantly increased truck traffic and bottle-necking at Caledon Village being just a few of them. What did absolutely no one complain about? The surface of the road.

It was not excessively gouged, pitted, or worn down at all. Most travellers would likely agree that outside of various safety concerns, there was nothing wrong with the actual road itself.

Now, however? Well, that's a different story. Whatever the heck they've used to resurface the road has resulted in the soundtrack to a scary movie playing out at 80-100km/hr. It sings, moans, and makes a whole host of otherworldly sounds that are not only weird, but distracting and distracted drivers on Highway 10 we already have quite enough of. So, it looks (and sounds) like $9.3 million dollars wasted to me and has done nothing to address the safety issues Caledon residents and some of our local Councillors have been pursuing diligently for years.

Speaking of roads and "WTF" moments, it sounds like our Premier is still pursuing the idea of a tunnel under another highway, this time the 401. Announced just a few days ago, a contract has been awarded to consultants WSP to conduct a feasibility study of the proposed Highway 401 tunnel cost. The study alone will cost taxpayers an estimated $9.1 million!

The words "nine," and "million" in the same sentence seem to be synonymous with roadworks recently, and not in a good way. I have a proposition for Mr. Ford. I'll conduct a feasibility study for half that price and I already know the answer. A tunnel is not feasible. It's ridiculous. There. My report is submitted and you can now brag to the taxpayers that you've saved the province $4.5 million dollars (give or take) in consultancy fees.

You know how else you can save money? Stop building highways that make no sense. In related news, I want to be a consultant when I grow up. Apparently, there's good money in it.

Here's another one and I don't even know where to start. Allegedly handing out money to strip clubs as a skilled trade investment. Leaving aside the completely obvious reasons this is wrong including: the exploitation of workers, the potential for human trafficking, the violence against women and questionable business practices and relationships, how in the "H.E. double hockey sticks" was government money, destined for skilled trades, handed to strip club owners instead?

With due respect to the athleticism required to perform in such an environment, I don't think that's the kind of skill development the government has any business investing our tax dollars in. In my other life we run a business that relies on certain skilled trades. We've been crying out for years that we need to do more; including exposing youth to the trades while still in high school, encouraging trades as a career option, and enhancing the Canadian workforce to secure our place as a province where the trades are supported. Now, in even tougher economic times, with tariffs taking an enormous toll on us and others – a continued investment in trades could have been a gamechanger. Instead, apparently we're in the adult entertainment business now.

Meanwhile, the Premier continues along his merry way unchecked. Questionable bills are being rammed through the legislature without due process, second or third readings, or the opportunity for public input. Automated speed cameras are coming down across the province (even being removed from school zones) despite study after study documenting their effectiveness. Changes to the Environmental Protections Act, Environmental Assessment Act, the Endangered Species Act, Building "Faster and Smarter" Act (with accompanying loss of municipal control over the process) and on and on it goes, are all happening at both an alarming, and rapid-fire pace.

You'd certainly be forgiven if you've had a few "What The Ford" moments lately, and there's a good chance you've now got a headache from smacking your head so often. I'd say that you could exercise your right to vote to potentially make change, but Ford announced just a few days ago that he intends to "amend" those laws too. No doubt without any public input. WTF?

MAYOR ANNETTE GROVES
MAYOR GROVES' COLUMN



Changes to Bail and Sentencing Reform

In October, I attended the Federal government's press conference announcing the Bail and Sentencing Reform Act — an important step toward strengthening community safety and accountability in our justice system.

I would like to extend my support for bail reform and advocating for change to the Criminal Code, including associated bills that amend it for repeat offenders, so they cannot return to the street and commit more crimes before their day in court.

On July 5, 2025, a resident of Caledon suffered long-term, life-altering injuries in a four-vehicle collision in Brampton that resulted in impaired driving charges causing bodily harm, among other charges, for a five-time repeat offender dating back to 2010.

At the time of the collision, the offender was on bail with the condition that he did not drive a motor vehicle, and he was on three separate lifetime driving bans.

The proposed reforms will help ensure stricter bail laws, tougher sentencing for violent and repeat offenders, and better protection for victims.

I want to thank Minister Fraser for his leadership and advocacy on this issue, and for bringing together municipal voices to support safer communities across Canada.

Federal bail reform can effectively balance individual rights and freedoms with public safety. It will save lives and reduce harm to individuals, families and communities and work in concert with the Province's commitment through the Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension Grant and the OPP Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement (ROPE) Squad.

"Canada's new government is moving ahead with sweeping reforms to keep Canadians safe. We're proposing over 80 clauses of targeted changes that will make bail harder to get while also toughening sentencing laws for repeat and violent offenders. We are supporting police on the front lines, and we are investing in long-term prevention, like housing, mental health, and youth programs, so communities are safer over time. In the coming months, we will also bring forward additional measures to better protect people facing sexual and intimate partner violence, and to keep children safe from horrific crimes."

- The Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C., K.C., M.P.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency

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BUSINESS

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PDSB and Bolton Pole Vault partner to bring track and field Facility to Humberview



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

Continued from FRONT

The Centre will also feature an Olympic-grade weight room and support spaces for athletes, including therapy rooms, classrooms, and an athlete's lounge.

During school hours, PDSB will have access to the facility, and students will be able to use all amenities as part of their physical education classes and extracurricular programs.

Outside of school hours, Bolton Pole Vault will use the facility to train track and field athletes.

The facility will also be open to the public for track and field through programming and rentals.

This project is staying close to home, as Bolton Pole Vault has been using the existing track and field facility at Humberview for the past 12 years.

Bolton Pole Vault plans to host open houses, workshops, and youth outreach programs to encourage community engagement and introduce track and field to new athletes.

In the future, the facility is designed to accommodate regional, provincial, and national competitions.

Doug Wood, who not only competed for Canada at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics in the pole vault but also coaches and launched Bolton Pole Vault, is spearheading this project.

He shares that they have been talking about this project for a long time.

Initially, he says they were considering building the facility on the current outdoor training facility they use now. It wasn't until he discussed the plans with Stan Cameron, Trustee for Caledon Peel District School Board, and other PDSB staff that they presented the partnership opportunity to build it on school property.

"It absolutely serves the entire community significantly better, and helps to solve the facility shortage in Southwestern Ontario," says Wood. "It's a first step for sure."

Wood says that since 1979, there has not truly been any additional track and field infrastructure added in the Golden Horseshoe of Southern Ontario, yet the population has tripled.

He shares that they're constantly working in overcrowded spaces or tired facilities.

Wood says their new facility would better suit their preparation for the athletes and alleviate some of the overcrowding in surrounding facilities.

"It amazes me that we were able to do what we did," says Wood. "We've had some very, very poor facilities, but it's better than nothing. What we're trying to do is no longer be a structure for just survival, but something that serves the athletes and tries to give them at least some facility that makes them feel like this is serious, and makes them feel like this has meaning."

He shares that the facility's location is "priceless" because it ties two high schools together and already features an outdoor track.

Through the partnership with PDSB, Wood does not have to pay development charges or property taxes.

"These are huge benefits to the longevity and the operational and the startup cost," he says.

"We hope at 3 o'clock every day, this place is teeming with youth, teeming with athletes, kids learning track and field and staying off their phones and getting out of their houses. With that kind of grassroots development, this place will produce Olympic athletes, without a doubt."

PDSB will also offer modified education plans and allow planning and programming to have opportunities for the students to have high-performance coaching for the afternoon before they leave for the day.

"We'll do high-performance coaching for Olympics in the morning, high-performance high school in the afternoon, and then after school it's clubs, junior development, and grassroots," explains Wood.

"I shake my head every day with this because people are driven away from our sport because we don't have any place to do it," says Wood.

Continued on Page A9

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Canadian Olympic athlete Alysha Newman is pictured with her coach, Doug Wood.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Continued from Page A8

He also shares that he looks forward to having a place where they can "set up roots" and not have to move around, as well as introduce the ability to run programs in their own space.

The biggest hurdle they are facing right now is securing $10 million in funding; they hope to raise it 100 per cent themselves.

Wood shares that they are currently selling tables for their gala in February to help raise funds.

The gala will feature Canadian Olympic athletes, fine dining, and a silent auction.

Cameron shares that when he and members of their physical planning committee and planning department met Wood at the current pole vault site beside Humberview Secondary School, Cameron says he "jumped" at the chance upon seeing the plans.

"There's no negatives to this story," says Cameron.

He shares that this partnership could create opportunities not only for Peel District School Board students, but also for the community and for athletes at all levels.

"Nowhere in Canada does this specific kind of partnership exist," he says. "It's a win, win, win situation all around, and we want to be a part of it."

"From my standpoint, I believe we're very proud to partner with this amazing local pole vault club where we'll have a user agreement and a maintenance agreement that's really between just two parties, the Peel District School Board and the Bolton Pole Vault Club," says Cameron. "A high-performance center that can only bring good things to our community, to our students and to our high-performance athletes."

Cameron says this facility is all about the possibilities and opportunities, whether for current students who can't wait to see what they can achieve, or for students who will want to come to Humberview to experience world-class track and field.

"I'm really excited for our community because of opportunities they may not otherwise have had. I think about people in our community who sometimes have to go out of our community to get those opportunities somewhere else," he says. "Now you won't have to; you can stay here and you could be a part of an amazing club moving forward, including starting from a very young age."

Construction is expected to begin in early 2026, with completion planned for 2027, which as Cameron shares, is just in time to support Canada's preparations for the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

"Can you imagine kids in our community knowing there are world class Olympic athletes among us who are practicing inside that building every day?"

"I really like the whole Humberview picture because it's more than just athletics," adds Cameron. "It does not matter how you learn, this is the school for you."

Cameron explains how Humberview offers something for everyone, whether that's science and technology, specialist high skills majors, or their new DREAM program, Design, Robotics, Engineering, and Advanced Manufacturing.

"It does not matter how you learn," he says. "It really encompasses a wide range of academic and athletic attractions."

"There's real excitement in the school for the athletic teams and this new building that's going to be such a wonderful addition," adds Cameron. "I'm really pleased that it's a two-party partnership and that we, PDSB, are one of those two parties."

Headwaters Arts Gallery Annual Christmas Artisan Gift and Fine Art Sale now open

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Headwaters Arts Gallery's Annual Christmas Artisan Gift and Fine Art Sale, "Artful Giving," opened on November 12 and provides the perfect place for residents to complete, or start, their yearly Christmas shopping.

Headwaters notes their Christmas show is the "perfect place to find gifts with originality, quality and attention to detail."

This event will feature more than 40 local and regional artists and artisans and their work, more than in previous years.

The showcase will be held at Headwaters Art Gallery at the Alton Mill Arts Centre, and is shared to provide both a relaxed and festive atmosphere.

"The magic of Christmas returns and this show is bigger than ever with exceptional and truly unique, handcrafted items that are beautiful and affordable," says Loni Griffin, Headwaters Arts Gallery Coordinator.

Griffin also notes that new artists and artisans have been added to this year's show, adding an element of surprise to the Gallery for returning visitors.

"The price points for these creative gems range from $5.00 to $100 dollars with some works and paintings over $200.00," adds Griffin.

Featured items range from a variety of hand-painted, carved, wood-turned, sewn and painted

Christmas ornaments, handcrafted jewellery, hand-woven tea towels, foraged inks, knitted items and one-of-a-kind handmade cards.

An opening reception will be held on November 22 from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Gallery, where attendees can meet the artists, enjoy some refreshments, and most importantly, shop.

Headwaters Arts will also run its "Grateful Giving" fundraising campaign at the reception.

This fundraiser will support the Headwaters Arts Scholarship Fund, which provides funding to high school students to advance their education and training in the Arts, helping ensure a pathway for young artists.

Artful Giving will run until January 6, 2026.

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A POEM BY SANDRA TURCAROLO

For the men and women who served in the wars and still do,
We take a moment this Remembrance Day, to say, "thank you."

There are not enough words of gratitude that anyone can say,
To those who sacrificed their lives, in the most unspeakable way.

They consist of a mother, a daughter, a father, or a son,
Whose mission isn't complete, until the job is done.

Some were lucky and make it home safe and sound,
While others didn't have a chance, as the bombs hit the ground.

As we bow our heads on November 11th, at exactly 11am,
Let's take a moment, to remember and thank each and every one of them.

If you'd like to thank them in an extra special way,
Make a donation in their honour, at "mypoppy.ca".



Caledon Remembers: Remembrance Day ceremonies held across community

BY RILEY MURPHY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER







CALEDON REMEMBERS – Among those participating in Tuesday's Remembrance Day ceremonies at Town Hall were (Top) Fire Chief Dave Pelayo, (Middle) MP Ruby Sahota, and (Above) Members of Council and municipal staff. **PHOTOS BY RILEY MURPHY**

Between November 9 to November 11, three separate Remembrance Day ceremonies were held in Caledon – in Alton, Bolton, and Caledon East at the Town Hall.

On November 9th, despite the heavy snow, ceremonies in both Alton and Bolton drew attendees who gathered around to take part in the Acts of Remembrance.

The Alton ceremony took place at Alton Legion Hall, and participating in the event was Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier.

"I have the great honour of attending many Acts of Remembrance throughout Dufferin-Caledon, and I am always struck by how unique each of them are. To the Alton Legion and the members who host today's ceremony, thank you very much," says Jones.

As we move into next year, the 100th anniversary of the formation of legions, she notes how different legions have become over the years.

"Initially formed to assist veterans who were returning from World War One, and now we have this beautiful facility that has become very much the heart of Alton; thank you for your service."

Mayor Annette Groves also noted the Legion for hosting Alton's event, "This is truly important to all of us as Canadians."

"On November 11th, 1918, 11 a.m., the First World War ended. The following year we began to mark a day of Remembrance to honour the dead and those that served their country," said Groves. "We continue this tradition today when we wear the poppy to show our remembrance."

Groves said that Canadians have both fought and lost their lives for the freedoms that we enjoy today, and now we have the opportunities to pause to "honour, thank and remember the fallen."

"Most of us have never seen war and cannot imagine the hardships that were faced by so many. What we can do is remember and recognize those that gave their lives and be grateful for our freedoms and our quality of life. We can remember the soldiers, their families they left behind and their sacrifices. We remember them now and always," said Groves.

On Remembrance Day itself, November 11, a ceremony was held at Town Hall.

The event was attended by many, including veterans, Caledon Council, MPs, Caledon Fire and Emergency, Caledon OPP, various Caledon schools, and more.

Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North—Caledon and a Secretary of State in the Federal Government, shared that as she prepared remarks for the day, she reflected on what this day means to many.

"For some it may feel like an old tradition, for others a duty. For many it's a moment of silence, a time to wear a poppy and give to the local Legion. But for me, Remembrance Day is something deeper. It's a promise," said Sahota. "A promise that we will never forget who we are and how we got here. A promise that we will remember our history, learn from it and we may never repeat the evil of the past."

Sahota said that when we pause at the 11th hour of the 11th day, it's not just marking history, but "touching the heartbeat of a nation."

"We remember the farmers, the sons and daughters who put on a uniform and left everything they knew behind to defend something greater than themselves," she says.

Sahota noted various area residents who contributed to war efforts during World War I and World War II, such as Bolton resident Doris Porter, who joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps during the Second World War.

She also highlighted Dr. William Stubbs, who cared for the horses that hauled supplies and wounded soldiers through World War I, "or the many names carved into our cenotaphs, lives cut short, never forgotten, all in the service of a higher call," said Sahota.

"Remembrance is not solely about war, it's about what they fought for, peace, freedom, democracy. Most importantly, it's about responsibility: our responsibility, to build a Canada worthy of their sacrifice. A Canada that stands for peace, freedom and democracy, because remembrance is not just about looking back, it's about carrying forward," said Sahota.

O Canada was sung by the Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School choir, and various Caledon students read aloud poems for attendees, one of which was A Prayer for the Twenty-First Century by John Marsden:

May we be outlived by our daughters.
May we be outlived by our sons.
May the bombs rust away in the bunkers,
And the doomsday clock not be rewound,
May the solitary scientists working,
Remember the holes in the ground.
May the knife remain in the holder,
May the bullet stay in the gun,
May those who live in the shadows
Be seen by those in the sun.

The ceremony concluded with the laying of wreaths and the Remembrance Day Service march.







The cast of Rapunzel: A Braid New World are all returning actors from Theatre Orangeville's pantomime last year. All experience and seasoned, their chemistry promises to help deliver an unforgettable performance. From left: Ben Skipper, Christina Gordon, Debbie Collins, Annika Tupper, William Lincoln, Rachel Cameron, and Andrew McGillivray.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Theatre Orangeville is bringing in the laughs with "Rapunzel: A Braid New World" pantomime

BY JOSHUA DRAKES

For those with a love of bombastic, colourful, and hilarious theatre, Theatre Orangeville's Rapunzel: A Braid New World will have those needs covered when it premieres on Friday, November 28.

Written by David Nairn and Debbie Collins, with Nairn stepping into the director's boots, this pantomime production also comes fully loaded with an all-star cast.

Christina Gordon, who will be playing Ethel the Fairy and Justin the Beaver, said that this retelling of Rapunzel will be anything but an average performance.

"The audience is going to be visually stunned," said Gordon. "It's a saturated atmosphere. What this theatre can bring to life with Beckie (Morris') designs is something you just don't normally see in live theatre. You're part of the environment, you think you're there."

For those unfamiliar, Pantomime is a type of musical comedy that often retells well-known stories in a new, comedic way.

Made for family entertainment, it's famous for openly encouraging audience participation in the performance.

Nairn said that audience participation will be key to this production.

"The success of the panto lies in the fact of audience involvement," he said. "If the audience just sits back and doesn't get involved, then we haven't done our job right."

Throughout the performance, Nairn said that actors will be looking to engage with the audience, sometimes on a very personal level. They'll play off the energy of the room, ensuring that every performance is unique from the previous one.

Gordon said that they want to really connect with audiences and maybe help them open up about their own lives through comedy and theatre.

Nairn and Gordon both agree that theatre is an important outlet for emotions and the stresses of daily life, so as much as they want people to laugh, they want to release equally as much.

"I always found that there are many moments in panto where something hits somebody really hard," Gordon said. "It might even just be a lyric from a song or something. But if you can just sit for a second and acknowledge what may be going on in your life, and then kiss it goodbye or accept it as part of you, then that's a good thing to take away."

Nairn continued by saying that the production's humour has something for all ages. There will be jokes for younger kids and adults. One of the merits of this approach is that jokes can be kept fresh, up-to-date, and relatable for audiences.

"We try to make it work for younger audiences as well as older ones, but that doesn't mean it's a children's show," he said. "We have basically two levels going on. There's references in there that anybody over the age of 12 might not understand, but there's also references in there anybody under the age of 12 won't understand. We try to keep it relevant."

Theatre Orangeville is also promising an equally captivating set to accompany the performances. Once again, the product of Beckie Morris and Lisa Lahue, the same minds behind the incredible set of For the Wonder of it All. Their expertise and vision promise unforgettable visuals that already have the cast excited to act within them.

Ben Skipper, who plays Fred the Fairy and the soothsayer, praised the behind-the-scenes team for an incredible job.

"All I can really say is that the work Beckie and Lisa have done is incredible," he said. "To create this set is a towering achievement."

Puns aside, the excitement isn't contained to just an upcoming audience; it's being felt by the cast as well.

For some of the cast, the prospect of performing in a pantomime is just as exciting for them as it is for the audience watching them.

Annika Tupper, who plays Rapunzel and Rhonda the candlestick maker, said the atmosphere is extremely uplifting and lets the performers and cast cut loose and just have fun together.

"This show is so accessible for newcomers, and oldcomers, and teaching each other about the mechanics of panto, that's what excites me," she said. "Growing up in the prairies, pantomime wasn't really a thing. So coming here and doing my first pantomime last year, I can say there's so much joy and discovery. It's basically permission to be silly with a group of people for a couple hours."

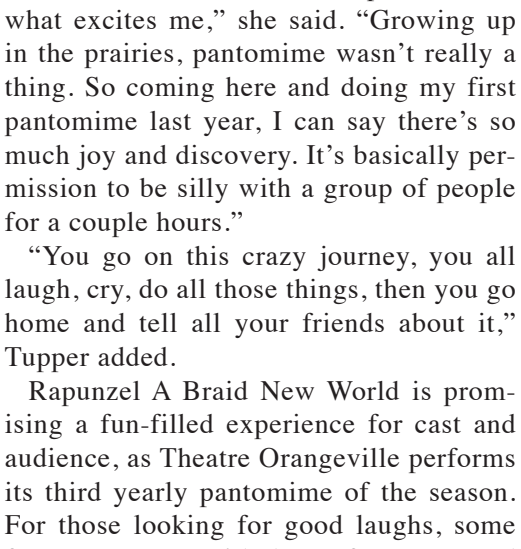
"You go on this crazy journey, you all laugh, cry, do all those things, then you go home and tell all your friends about it," Tupper added.

Rapunzel A Braid New World is promising a fun-filled experience for cast and audience, as Theatre Orangeville performs its third yearly pantomime of the season. For those looking for good laughs, some fun engagement with the performance, and a release from life's stresses, this will be the performance they've been waiting for.

Skipper said it's a performance that will heal its audience through the joy of comedy.

"Come out to Rapunzel," he said. "It's a chance to just have fun. There's nothing that heals better than laughter. You're giving yourself the opportunity to let loose in a room with no judgment. You can't look sillier than us, so come into this space with the people you love and have fun."

Tickets are available online at app.arts-people.com/?show=269299 and more info can be found on Theatre Orangeville's website.



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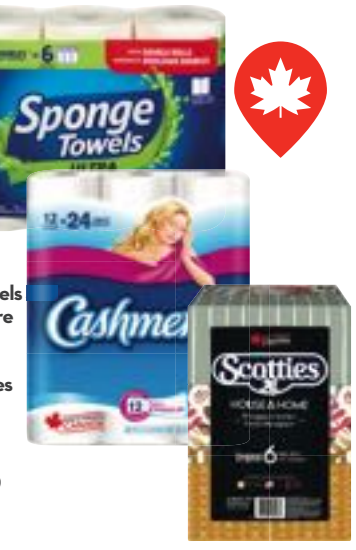
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SPORTS

Admirals take on the surging Patriots and the struggling Raiders in week of polarities



Admirals' Assistant Captain Curtis Freeman notched one goal and two assists versus Georgetown and Toronto to raise his team-leading points total to 27.

PHOTO BY JIM STEWART

BY JIM STEWART

It was a week of polarities for the Admirals in terms of both level of opposition and result.

Caledon's Junior A Hockey Club faced off against the top and bottom teams of the OJHL West Division—the Toronto Patriots and the Georgetown Raiders—on Saturday and Thursday, respectively.

Although the 12th place Raiders arrived at Mayfield as prohibitive underdogs on Thursday night and hauled a 1-14-2-0 record into The Icebox, the visitors skated with their hosts in a hard-fought 3-1 loss to the Admirals.

Caledon was coming off an impressive 4-1 win over the third-place Rebellion in King on Sunday and all indicators suggested this could be a blowout loss for the Raiders after the club lost a 13-1 laugher to Collingwood earlier in the week.

Former Admirals' Head Coach Chris Taylor returned to Caledon for the first time as Raiders' bench boss after inducing and exhorting his young Admirals to play .500 hockey from Christmas to the finish line after a tough start to 2024-25.

However, it was Taylor's former team which opened the scoring at 5:11 of the first period when Owen Meli—on Clarence Allain's 14th assist of the season—beat Raiders' goaltender Luke Quinn.

The Raiders tied it 1-1 when James Wong netted his 10th of the year—beating James Meredith at 9:24 of the middle frame.

A significant factor after forty minutes of action was the stellar play of Quinn. It was baptism by fire for Quinn in his first OJHL game. The rookie netminder proved his readiness for Junior hockey by stopping 41 of the 42 shots he faced to keep the Raiders in the contest.

However, Quinn could only hold the fort for so long against the Admiral armada and former Georgetown Raider Nolan Keeler broke the 1-1 tie at 10:07 of the final frame. Curtis Freeman and Cam Lang—with their 16th and 10th assists, respectively—set up the equalizer as Caledon's top line added another important goal to their season-long ledger.

Deacon King's empty netter—with helpers from Allain and Jack Fang—closed the scoring with one second remaining on the clock.

All told, Quinn turned in a heroic 50-save performance for the Raiders while Meredith put forth a steady effort by stopping 31 of 32 to earn the W for the Admirals.

With the narrow victory over Georgetown, Caledon (9-7-1-2) moved back into eighth place in the OJHL West—trailing seventh-place Burlington by four points with three games in hand.

After edging the Raiders on home ice, the Admirals' fleet sailed to Westwood Arena on Saturday night to take on the Toronto Patriots—winners of their last five games. The OJHL West-leading Pats (18-5-0-0) were out to avenge a wild 7-6 loss to the Admirals on October 9 in Caledon in what could be a sneak preview of first round OJHL West playoff opponents.

The Patriots succeeded in their quest for vengeance by sinking the Admirals 8-3. The first-place Toronto squad led 4-0 after the first period and Colton Woods fired his second goal of the game at 3:13 of the middle frame to put the home side up by five.

Although the Admirals pumped in a pair of power play goals by Jonah Henderson and Curtis Freeman at 6:15 and 12:25 of the second period to narrow the deficit to 5-2, the Patriots kicked off the third period with goals by Alex Hebblethwaite and Hudson Cummins to restore Toronto's five-goal lead.

A third power play goal by Caledon at 11:21—on Cam Lang's seventh of the season with helpers by Clarence Allain and Curtis Freeman—made it 7-3, but the Patriots closed the scoring two minutes later on Ivan Bazunov's marker.

The Raiders return to Caledon on Thursday, November 13 for a rematch at 7:30 p.m. at the Icebox.

ADMIRALS NEED BILLETS

Caledon GM Ken Jeysman announced that the Admirals are in need of billet families to care for a growing number of out-of-town players who are being attracted to the club's rising fortunes. If you are interested in providing room and board for a Junior A Admiral, please contact Ken Jeysman at 289-260-4220 to discuss the benefits of billeting.

Bolton Oldtimers' 50th Anniversary Hockey Banquet at Royal Ambassador a big hit with attendees

BY JIM STEWART

Garth Young and Bill Moyer are lifers in the Bolton Oldtimers' Hockey League so the venerable association's 50th Anniversary banquet on Friday night at The Royal Ambassador brought back great memories and created new ones for the dynamic duo.

More than 75 attendees enjoyed the hospitality of The Royal Ambassador in Caledon East, treasured a trip down memory lane at the artefacts tables, and reminisced about fifty years of good times that the league has generated for hundreds of players since its inception in 1975.

Moyer, who is the league's Treasurer, was impressed that "there was so much interest in the artefacts we displayed—photo albums, trophies, and jerseys."

"I grew up in this Town so it was really great to see so many people—over 75 showed up – and everyone was so happy to be there. They want to do this every year. Garth's speech was really good and he did a great job reinforcing the family aspect of Oldtimers hockey."

Young, the Vice President of the league, echoed his administrative partner's take on the evening: "One of the highlights for me was seeing some of the guys and their wives that I haven't seen for years. We did lots of reminiscing, especially about the Oldtimers tournaments we used to enter in Niagara Falls, Lake Placid, Georgetown, Bracebridge—so many good times on road trips."

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the Oldtimers League, according to Moyer, was "all the guys in the group."

"Everybody likes everybody and that was based on how players would invite new players into the league that we knew would get along with the other guys. It's always been a wonderful atmosphere and the players came from all walks of life. There were no ego trips. Everybody got along."



PHOTO BY JIM STEWART

Road trips were a test of those ties and Young noted that out-of-town tournaments only strengthened the bonds.

"Our wives were in the stands cheering for us at tournaments and I remember all the good times in the restaurants after the games with the whole team and our wives around the table."

Young, whose impact on local hockey is evidenced by the Garth Young Arena in the Mayfield Recreation Complex, holds the current distinction of being the player longest affiliated with the league. He also serves in multiple executive capacities as Vice President and Secretary and relishes the administrative accomplishments of the league.

"One of those highlights was formulating a constitution and getting incorporated in 2017. I write up all the minutes, too, of our meetings."

Treasurer Moyer described his executive colleagues as a "Great group of guys—it's always an issue in any club when it comes to balancing funds. We are incorporated and when we have meetings, I generate spreadsheets to show what we've been spending money on. For example, we purchase flowers for spouses of deceased members. We have the odd Christmas gathering after meetings. Most importantly, our League has charitable connections to the community. Every year, we donate $750 to Bethel House and $750 to Caledon Meals on Wheels from our players' fees."

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Position Summary
The Continuous Improvement Maintenance Specialist will provide technical support to the maintenance and production teams, driving continuous improvement (CI) initiatives across the company's packaging assets. This role will be instrumental in enhancing equipment performance, optimizing maintenance practices, and ensuring reliable production through strategic improvements and predictive maintenance programs.

These are full-time positions, based on 88 hours of work per 2-week cycle, with occasional overtime. At this time, we are only looking for individuals who can work a 12-hour rotating continental shift, including nights and weekends.

- Salary $52.45 per hour, with possibility of bonus; 10 days vacation plus extended medical, dental, and long-term disability insurance & participation in our retirement savings plan.
- Inbound transportation costs for out of province applicants.
- Minimum of 7 years of experience in maintenance, production, or continuous improvement within a manufacturing environment.
- Minimum of 5 years of experience working as a service engineer with Krones machinery; this includes performing installations, audits, maintenance, troubleshooting, overhauls and conducting training sessions.
- Must have hands-on experience with automation and control systems, including plc programming, troubleshooting, and integrating these systems into production lines.
- Diploma or degree in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, or a related field.
- Electrical or mechanical red seal certification preferred.
- Strong understanding of mechanical and electrical systems related to packaging equipment.
- Experience with preventive and predictive maintenance programs.
- Knowledge of KPI development and performance monitoring.
- Technical writing skills – report, summaries, instructions, procedures, structure.
- Willingness to travel to plant locations for onsite support.
- Ability to multitask in a fast-paced environment with a lot of change.
- Ability to work 12-hour continental rotating shift.
- Excellent knowledge of health and safety and lockout procedures.
- Strong team player with excellent problem-solving skills.
- Have a positive willingness to assist all departments as required.

To view a comprehensive overview of the position, please go to https://jobs.dayforcehcm.com/en-US/irss/CANDIDATEPORTAL/jobs/3052
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- This is a full-time position, based on 88 hours of work per 2-week cycle, with occasional overtime. At this time, we are only looking for individuals who can work a 12-hour rotating continental shift, including nights and weekends.
- Salary $20.60 - $21.50 per hour, with possibility of bonus; 10 days vacation plus extended medical, dental, and long-term disability insurance & participation in our retirement savings plan.
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OBITUARIES

GENA IONE HICKS DOUGLAS
GENA: LIVING WITH HER HEART!
FEBRUARY 26, 1923 – NOVEMBER 6, 2025



Gena Ione Hicks Douglas passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 6, at Dufferin Oaks Long Term Care in Shelburne. Under the gentle, loving care of staff, she had lived a lovely day and started her nap.

Gena was an enthusiastic mother to Pam McCormick (Dave); the late Alan Douglas, 2020 (Patti); Sam Anderson (Neil) and Donna (Ivar Boriss). We will also honour Al's (Ernie) life at Gena's service.

She leaves grandchildren: Jesse, Josh, Lyndsey & Shannon; Caelan & Jami; Myles & Ryan; Emily & Ben. Her great grandchildren, Hadley, Finn & Blakely, Rory, James, Aurelia & Emma hear stories of before.

When Gena Douglas closed the chapter on parenthood it gave her children opportunity to revel in how lucky we were to have her as our mother. Happy memories came spilling out, unbridled, and plentiful.

"Every day before I went to kindergarten, she'd make salmon sandwiches and we'd sit on the brown chair in the bedroom and watch The Flintstones." Pam

"Mom could blow beautiful smoke rings. She'd 'borrow' a cigarette, never having been a smoker herself, and would blow these perfectly round smoke rings that would float up into nothing. Then she'd give the cigarette back and be off." Sam

"I climbed up the apple tree in our back yard on Sunset Drive. Once I got up there, I couldn't get down. She talked me down, branch by branch!" Alan. Al, who died in 2020, had shared this in 2019.

"It was impossible to see a deserted house and NOT stop. Every house had to be explored, wondered about." Donna

Gena lived in an era where expectations of women were tied to family. Yet, she very nicely ignored those restrictions, getting her pilots license at age 45, scoring bargain furniture and refinishing all of it, anchoring Orangeville Feed and Hardware with knowledge and charm.

Gena Douglas: mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, wife, friend, daughter, sister. Her friendships knew no boundaries. Her heart and her hearth were huge. Married to Don for 46 years, she made it possible for him to pass away at home, in the comfort of the place on 5 Sideroad that they built together. And after his funeral, she forged ahead, maintaining their private airfield (this means mowing 2200 feet of grass runway with a tractor), taking care of the house, and managing to 'let go' of so many of their shared passions… flying, cottaging, sailing, motorcycling. When she eventually moved 'into town,' her tools moved with her and she set up a comfortable workshop.

When Don became president of Ontario Flying Farmers, Gena stood alongside as Flying Farmer Queen. When he joined Rotary, she became a Rotary Ann and together they embraced their volunteer interests. Their birthdays were two days apart and one year they each planned a surprise birthday party for the other…very confusing for their friends who received two invitations for the same nightat two different locations!

Gena met one of her best friends, Yvonne Dudgeon through Westminster United Church junior choir. They were the junior choir 'mothers' for years.

Gena's life began in 1923 in Prince Edward County with unusual parents, equally passionate about how they lived. She grew up in a community of cheese makers; she reveled in the speedboats her parents built and raced; she admired her mother, Louise, for getting her drivers licence in the 20's.

As a teenager she took up the violin and later the saxophone and played frequently. As a senior she became a wicked pool player.

During WW2, she met her best friends, Rhoda, Lenore, and Helen. The foursome anchored teller cages at CIBC in Belleville. They played many tricks on the poor bank manager. Here's just one. On April 1 in 1943 they each, in 15-minute increments, called with difference excuses to say they couldn't come to work. You get the picture. Four unmanned teller cages. The bank manager was beside himself. Two minutes before starting time, the four linked arms, walked kitty corner across the main intersection in Belleville, and entered the bank door. "April Fools," they laughed. That was Gena.

In the past 30 years since Don's death, she has mourned the deaths of his and her own 3 siblings. She has seen her world become smaller as Alzheimers Disease claimed her brain cells. Her pleasant temperament has kept her grounded with caring staff at Dufferin Oaks in Shelburne.

And so, now, Gena, it's time for your final flight. Flaps up!

There's a hole in the clouds. Beyond that, sunshine. Fly high!

Gena's funeral service is scheduled for Monday, November 17 at 10 am (visitation), 11 am (service) at Dods McNair Funeral Home, 21 First St, Orangeville, ON. Memorial donations to Alzheimers Research or Dufferin Oaks Home.

OBITUARIES

TOM VANDERSTELT



Tom Vanderstelt passed away peacefully on October 29, 2025. He was a devoted husband to Helen Vanderstelt nee (Michalak), and loving father to Natashia Vanderstelt and Dana Putman, nee Vanderstelt. Cherished grandfather to Liam, Piper and Olivia. He was a steady guiding presence, and a man who gave deeply of his patience, warmth, and quiet strength. Tom touched the lives of those around him with his gentle heart and steadfast support, always offering kindness even in difficult times.

He will be remembered and cherished by his family, who will miss him dearly. Though he is no longer with us, his love, lessons, and spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of those who knew him.

In loving memory of our father, Tom Vanderstelt — you will be forever loved, and forever missed.

A Graveside Service will be held at The First Presbyterian Cemetery 8029 Poplar Sideroad, Collingwood on Saturday November 8th, 2025 at 2:30 pm. Memorial donations to Headwaters Health Care Centre would be appreciated by the family.

A tree will be planted in memory of Tom in the Dods & McNair Memorial Forest at the Island Lake Conservation Area, Orangeville.

Condolences may be offered to the family at www.dodsandmcnair.com

DAVE POUNDS
DECEMBER 29, 1947 - NOVEMBER 4, 2025



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dave Pounds on November 4th, 2025, in Alliston, Ontario. Dave's larger-than-life personality, his sparkling wit, and his kindness of spirit will be sorely missed by his companion, Catherine Laing; his sons, Christopher Pounds and Phillip Pounds (Burcu Yaman); their mother, Barbara Pounds; and his many friends.

The bulk of Dave's life before retirement was spent as an active and respected member of the Orangeville community through his involvement with numerous clubs and community groups.

One of Dave's passions in life was discovering his singing voice. From solos in the church choir, he progressed to Gilbert & Sullivan operettas and the Canadian Opera Company as a chorus member. One of Dave's proudest singing moments was participating in the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Orangeville cenotaph every year.

The other passion in Dave's life was the purchase of his dream retirement property featuring a beautiful pond. Dave and Catherine lovingly renovated their home, and together, they created a garden paradise.

Dave's 'Mellow Bellow' will be missed.

A cremation has taken place; the Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or a charity of your choosing.

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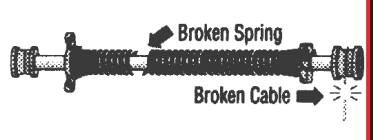
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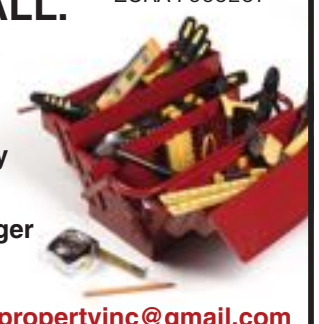
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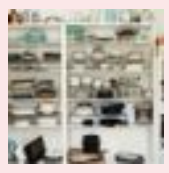
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CDS Students Shine at International Public Speaking Competition



Three Country Day School students just returned from the International Independent Schools' Public Speaking Competition in Maine – Audrey Jiang, Aneesa Khan and Adhya Chandradat.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BY KIM SILLCOX

Incredible memories were made when more than 120 high school students representing 37 schools from five countries gathered at Waynflete School in Portland, Maine, for the International Independent Schools' Public Speaking Competition (IISPSC) held October 15–20.

Three CDS public speaking students — Adhya Chandradat, Aneesa Khan, and Audrey Jiang — had the remarkable opportunity to compete alongside their veteran coaches, taking part in three categories: persuasive speaking (a memorized 12-minute speech), interpretive reading, and impromptu speaking, where competitors are given a topic, have two minutes to prepare, and then must speak for three to five minutes.

Our students performed exceptionally well, placing among the top 10 Canadian schools and within the top quarter overall in a very competitive international field.

A special congratulations goes to Adhya, who advanced to the finals in impromptu speaking with a compelling response to the Stephen King quote: "Amateurs sit and wait for inspiration, the rest of us just get up and go to work." Drawing inspiration from motivational speaker Wayne Dyer and software engineering pioneer Margaret Hamilton, she delivered a powerful speech that earned her 9th place overall.

For her other events, Adhya performed an interpretive reading from A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini and delivered a persuasive speech on how the airline industry overlooks pilots' mental health, a threat to both safety and well-being.

"My favourite part about the IISPSC was making new friends and sharing my voice about things that mean a lot to me," said Adhya. "There were 77 students in the persuasive speaking category, each talking about different global issues. Everyone was so impassioned about what they want to change. It was incredibly inspiring to watch."

For Aneesa, this was her first international tournament and she held her own impressively across all three events. Her persuasive speech addressed the mistreatment of women in the healthcare system, including issues of misdiagnosis and gender bias. In impromptu speaking, she was given the word "Sting" and interpreted it as failure and disappointment, weaving in the story of Australian Paralympic swimmer Alexa Leary, who triumphed at the 2024 Paris Paralympics with two gold medals and a silver. Her interpretive reading was drawn from This Is Where It Ends, a poignant story about a school shooting.

"Going in, I was worried people would be super competitive, but everyone was so friendly and supportive," said Aneesa. "It was such a relaxed and comfortable environment. Travelling with our veteran coaches, Ms. Wyndham-West, Mr. Robinson, and Mme Davidson, was an absolute privilege."

Audrey also competed in all three events, demonstrating thoughtful preparation and poise throughout the tournament. Her persuasive speech focused on the need for stronger protections for workers in the gig economy. For her interpretive reading, she performed an excerpt from Bee Sting by Demetri Martin, skillfully shifting between multiple voices - from the woman stung by a bee, to the bee itself, and even a cast of inanimate onlookers. One of Audrey's impromptu topics was a quote by Thomas Edison, "I have not failed. I just found 10,000 ways that won't work." At which she talked about the importance of trial and error and testing things.

"Getting to see all of these different speakers covering all sorts of issues while representing their different countries, felt like a commentary on the importance of honest communication and how the depth of human thought can create so many perspectives," said Audrey.

Next up for the team are the National Qualifiers at Branksome Hall at the end of November. If CDS finishes in the top 10, the next stop will be the Senior National Public Speaking Championships at St. John's-Ravenscourt School in Winnipeg this February.

The CDS Speech & Debate Team is optimistic they will once again qualify several students for the World Championships next April in Bristol, England.



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